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The Committee of Publication presented their report, which was read.

Mr. Frazer, Reporter, presented to the Society No. 33 of the Proceedings of the Society, just published.

The Society then proceeded to the consideration of the resolutions reported by the Committee on By-laws, and amended at the last meeting of the Society.

On motion of Mr. Fraley, the subject was referred back to the Committee, with instructions to report forthwith; which being complied with, the resolutions were reported in an amended form.

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*Special Meeting, December 16.*

Present, nineteen members.

Dr. FRANKLIN BACHE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

The Chairman stated that the meeting had been called at the request of a Committee appointed to take such steps as might seem to them expedient, in consequence of the claim of the executors of the late Mr. Nathan Dunn, against the Society.

The Committee having reported, the subject was referred to a Committee, consisting of Mr. Cope, Mr. T. Biddle, Mr. Vanderkemp, Mr. Dillingham, and Mr. Ord, who were authorized to associate with themselves such other members as they should think proper.

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*Stated Meeting, December 19.*

Present, thirty-three members.

Dr. FRANKLIN BACHE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

The Right Rev. Dr. Potter, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church for the Diocese of Pennsylvania, was introduced, and took his seat.

Letters were announced and read:—

From the Secretary of State to Mr. J. R. Ingersoll, dated

Washington, 16th December, 1845, in reference to the furnishing the Society with Congressional documents:—

From the same Department, dated Washington, 11th December, 1845, announcing the transmission of a donation to the Library of the Society:—

From the Regents of the University of New York, dated Albany, 9th December, 1845, acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings of the Society, Vol. IX. No. 33: and,—

From the Royal Society of Sciences, Agriculture, and Arts, of Lille, dated Lille, 17th October, 1845, acknowledging the receipt of seven volumes of the Transactions of this Society.

The following donations were announced:—

#### FOR THE LIBRARY.

Journal Asiatique. Quatrième Série. Tome VI. Juillet, Août. Nos. 25, 26. 8vo.—*From the Asiatic Society of Paris.*

Bulletin de la Société de Géographie. Troisième Série. Tome III. Paris, 1845. 8vo.—*From the Geographical Society of Paris.*

Message of the President of the United States to the Two Houses of Congress, at the Commencement of the First Session of the Twenty-ninth Congress. Washington, December, 1845. 8vo.—*From the Hon. Joseph R. Ingersoll.*

The African Repository and Colonial Journal. Vol. XXI. December, 1845. 8vo.—*From the American Colonization Society.*

Report of the Commissioners appointed by authority of the City Council, to examine the Sources from which a Supply of Pure Water may be obtained for the City of Boston. City Document, No. 41. Boston, 1845. 8vo.—*From Walter R. Johnson, Esq.*

Memoir on the Language and Inhabitants of Lord North's Island. From the Memoirs of the American Academy. By John Pickering. Cambridge (Mass.), 1845. 4to.—*From the Author.*

#### ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY BY PURCHASE.

Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires des Séances de l'Académie des Sciences. Tome XXI. Nos. 9 to 16, inclusive. 1st September to 20th October, 1845. 4to.

The list of outstanding Committees on subjects of science, and on obituary notices of deceased members, were read.

A communication for the Magellanic Premium, entitled "Memoir on the Parallectic Eye-piece, an Optical Combina-

tion for the Astronomical Determination of Minute Angular Changes," was presented, and being read in part, was referred to the officers and council.

Mr. Franklin Peale submitted to the examination of the members of the Society, some specimens of the manufacture of Gum-elastic Goods, by Mr. Goodyear, of New Haven, Conn., the inventor and patentee, and remarked upon the changes produced by the combination of a variety of inorganic substances, particularly the oxides of lead, &c. with this gum.

Mr. Peale observed, that the gum, in its ordinary state, was much affected by temperature, a fact familiar to every one, and was soluble in some of the oils and spirits, by which its value in the arts was much diminished; the articles exhibited were free from this inconvenience, retaining in the lowest temperature of the external air, all their present softness and pliability. He showed, also, that the elasticity was increased, and stated that they were no longer subject to the action of the usual solvents of this curious substance.

Mr. Peale directed the attention of the members to the beauty of the impressions of a finely engraved copper plate, upon the sheet gum, which being of uniform substance, without fibre, received the ink of the most delicate lines, more distinctly and beautifully than the finest paper. The samples shown were in the form of portable maps, which could be put in the pocket like a handkerchief.

Fancy table covers, ornamented with silver and gold, bronze, some of which had been bleached, and others left of the natural colour, together with crumb cloths, bathing mats, &c. were also shown.

Mr. Peale also mentioned, that the articles presented, were a few of the many useful and fanciful applications which the ingenious inventor had made by his improved process, and that the manufacturers were now principally employed in the production of articles of necessity and utility.

Professor Henry presented a paper, by Capt. Stockton, detailing experiments upon the bursting of cannon. The result of the experiments was, that the gun is not more liable to burst when there is an air space between the powder and ball, than when the wad is rammed home.

The communication gave rise to observations from Dr. Paterson, Prof. Henry, Mr. Ord, Prof. Frazer and Dr. Bache.

Professor Henry asked for information in regard to the ex-

periment related by Mr. Justice at the last meeting of the Society, and stated it as his belief, that if the needle had been carefully examined it would have been found not to be wetted.

Dr. Patterson reminded the Society, that about two years ago he had described a speaking automaton, which had been made and afterwards destroyed by Mr. Joseph Faber. He referred to various attempts which had been made to accomplish this object, which had been but partially successful, although universally regarded as the results of great ingenuity on the part of their inventors. The automaton in question could pronounce all words. Since then Mr. Faber has made a new instrument similar to the former, which was completed only a few days ago. Dr. P. stated, that he had witnessed its performances, and that they were at least equal to those of its predecessor; all words are produced by it as in the former instrument by various combinations of sixteen elementary sounds.

The Committee on Finance reported that they had examined the Treasurer's report, and found it correct, and recommended certain yearly appropriations, which were agreed to.

The list of outstanding Committees on business, was read.

Mr. Peale, on behalf of the Curators to obtain the standards of measure, reported in part.

On motion of Mr. Fraley, the Committee on Mr. Parker's claim was discharged, and the unfinished business referred to the Committee on Finance.

The Curators charged with removing the skeleton of the elephant from the Philadelphia Museum to the Hall, were discharged from the duty.

The Librarian was discharged from the farther duty of disposing of the copies of Mr. Du Ponceau's Essay on the Chinese Language.

The Society proceeded to the consideration of the resolutions reported by the Committee on the By-laws, which, on motion, were adopted, in the following form:—

“A resident member, who shall allow himself to be indebted for the annual contribution of *three* successive years, shall be deemed to have forfeited his membership; provided, however, that the Committee of Finance may, at their discretion, in any particular case, suspend the action of this paragraph.

“Between the months of August and November, inclusive, of each year, the Treasurer shall give notice in writing, to such members as may become liable, after the first Friday of January following, to the operation of the last paragraph of the 10th Section of the First Chapter of the Laws: and on the first Friday of February, he shall report to the Society all such forfeitures as may have taken place, as aforesaid.”